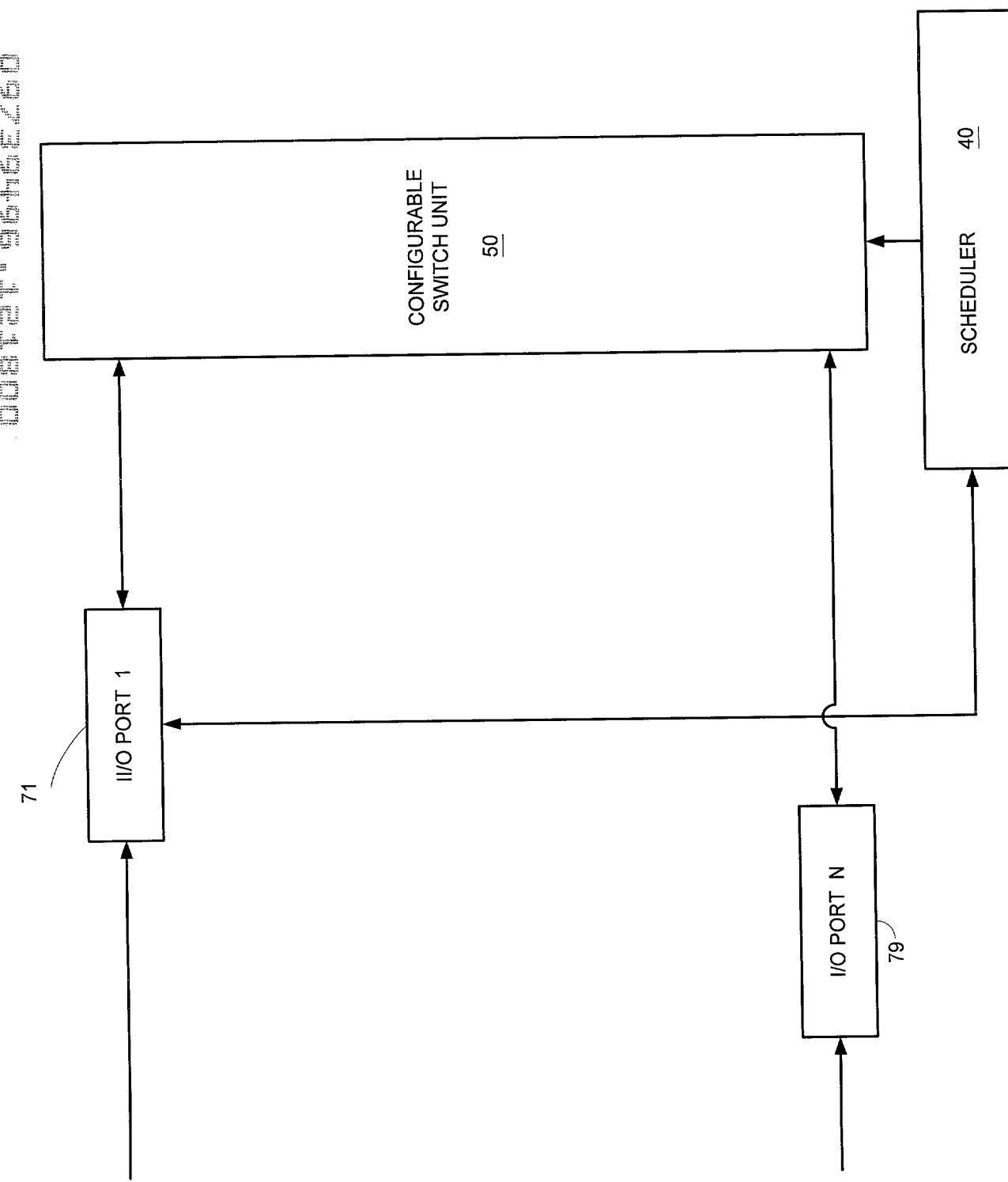


FIG. 1

9

FIG. 2



CHECKING, AT EACH TIME SLOT, FORWARDING REQUESTS TO FORWARD VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS FROM SOURCE PORTS TO DESTINATION PORTS OF THE MULTIPORT SWITCH, IGNORING FORWARDING REQUESTS FROM SOURCE PORTS AND DESTINATION PORTS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TO FORWARD AND RECEIVE ACCORDINGLY AT LEAST PORTIONS OF VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 111



SELECTING SELECTED FORWARDING REQUESTS OUT OF THE CHECKED FORWARDING REQUESTS
112



CONFIGURING THE MULTIPORT SWITCH FOR ALLOWING TO SERVICE THE SELECTED FORWARDING REQUESTS DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT
113

110

FIG. 3

PERIODICALLY CHECKING CONNECTION REQUESTS, EACH CONNECTION REQUEST REQUESTING TO COUPLE A DESTINATION PORT TO A SOURCE PORT FOR FORWARDING A VARIABLE LENGTH PACKET FROM THE SOURCE PORT TO THE DESTINATION PORT, IGNORING CONNECTION REQUESTS FROM SOURCE PORTS AND DESTINATION PORTS THAT ARE COUPLED DURING THE CURRENT TIME SLOT FOR FORWARDING VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT

121

PROCESSING THE CHECKED CONNECTION REQUESTS TO DETERMINE THE CONNECTIVITY OF THE CROSSBAR SWITCH DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT

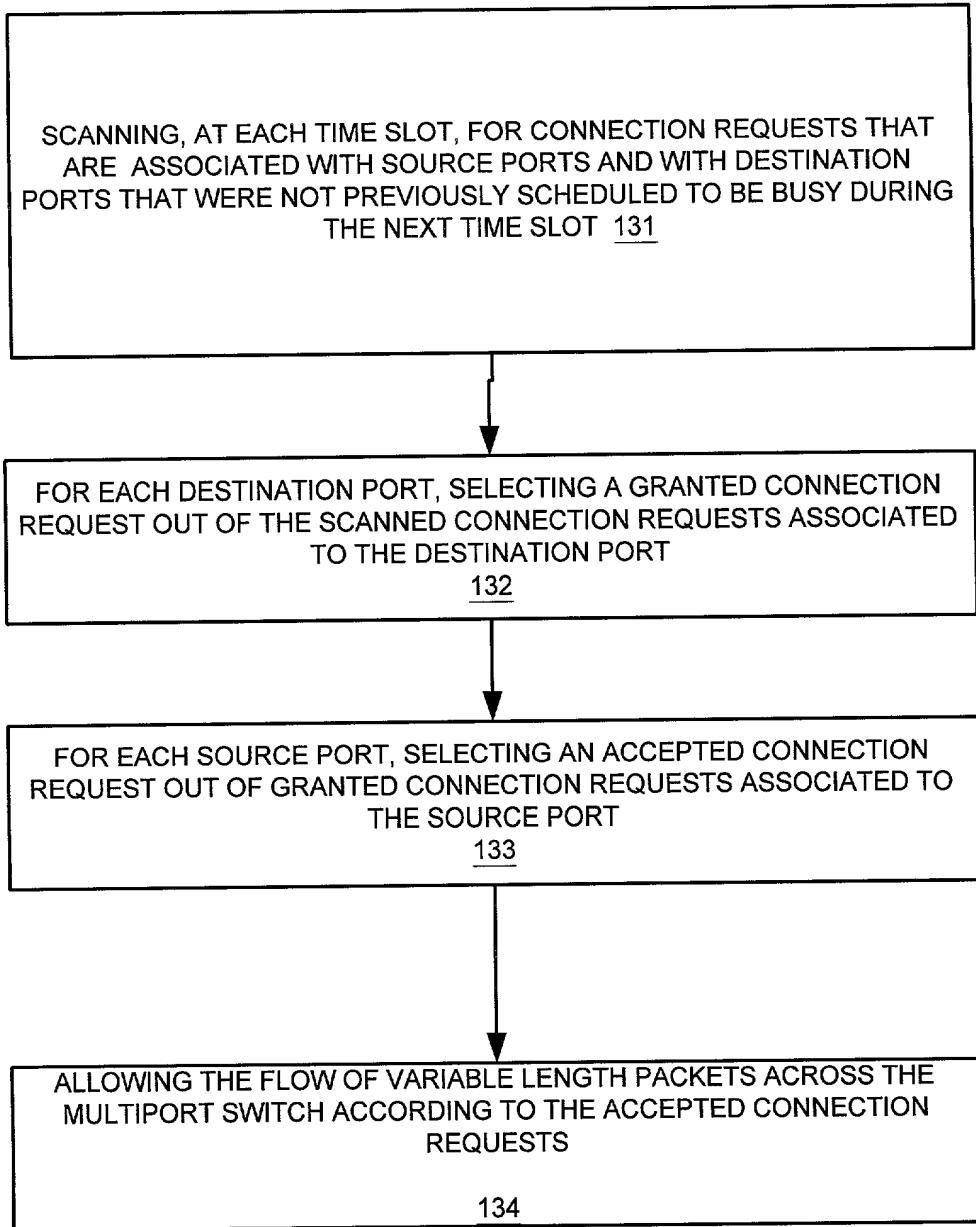
122

PROVIDING CONTROL SIGNALS TO THE CROSSBAR SWITCH IN VIEW OF THE DETERMINATION

123

120

FIG. 4



130

FIG. 5

SCANNING, AT EACH TIME SLOT, A CONTENT OF INPUT QUEUES WITHIN INPUT PORTS AND GENERATING FLOW REQUESTS FOR ALLOWING VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS TO FROM INPUT PORTS TO OUTPUT PORTS, BOTH PORTS WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TO BE BUSY DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 141

COMPARING FLOW REQUESTS AND SELECTING SELECTED FLOW REQUESTS TO BE SERVICED DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 142

UPDATING THE CONFIGURATION OF THE CONFIGURABLE MULTIPORT SWITCH FOR ALLOWING TO SERVICE THE SELECTED FLOW REQUESTS
144

140

FIG. 6